Sculpting Body Ideals Summary

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In her essay “Sculpting Body Ideals: *Alison Lapper Pregnant* and the Public Display of Disability” Ann Millett-Gallant argues that the sculpture *Alison Lapper Pregnant* is not simply a work of art that is meant to shock and disturb, but is one that uses a relatively normal subject to challenge deep-set beliefs that society holds about women and disabilities. Millet-Gallant states that “*Alison Lapper Pregnant* makes a public statement about this disabled woman’s right to be represented as a productive social subject *and* a reproductive sexual being and her right to represent others” (473). She believes that the sculpture challenges society’s expectations of disabled people by depicting one who is pregnant, and also challenges society’s expectations of pregnant women by depicting one who is disabled. Millet-Gallant explains that the display of the sculpture in Trafalgar Square is necessary to familiarize the public with an image of a completely exposed and unashamed disabled person.